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VII. — On Some Ancient and Modern Etymologies.

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Periero and peiero have long puzzled scholars. Lindsay, Latin Language, p. 199, says: "Pejëro and ējëro (cf. conierat, coniurat, G.G.L. IV. 322, 33) have not yet been thoroughly explained." See also p. 587. More recently Ferdinand Sommer, Indogermanische Forschungen, Bd. XI. (1900), p. 56, says: "Sehr zweifelhaft ist pēiĕrare (Osthoff, Perfekt, S. 115 Anm.) das, falls es zu peior gehört, auch die Vokalstufe *pēiŏs- enthalten könnte; das Wort ist und bleibt eine crux; auch die Ausführungen von Stolz (H.G. 170) befriedigen nicht."

Before Osthoff, Alcuin had connected peiero with peius, but in a different way, cf. Keil, G.L. VII., p. 307. "Periurus qui male iurat, peiero vero verbum r non debet habere; est enim auasi peius iuro." This was doubtless a current popular etymology, which did not lose sight of the connection of the word with iuro. Osthoff, in 1884, explained peiero as a denominative from peius in the original sense of "entstellen, verhunzen." In 1885 Gustav Meyer, Zeits. für Oest. Gym. 36, p. 280, gave a similar explanation. Brugmann, Gdr. II., p. 402, admits the explanation as possible. L. Havet, Mémoires de la Société de Linguistique, VI., p. 22, without mentioning Osthoff, gives essentially his view. "Peierare signifie donc à l'origine 'rendre pire, altérer, fausser, violer.' *Ius peieratum* est un droit corrompu (par faux serment). L'étymologie populaire crut voir dans ce dérivé de peius un composé de per et de iūro, doctrine qui ne paraît pas conciliable avec les lois phonétiques." Wharton, in his Etyma Latina (1890), has "pējero, swear falsely; 'make worse, alter, violate, fr. pējes- (cf. mājestas beside mājor)." Despite this array of authority, it seems to me that there is very little to be said for this explanation. It disregards the fact that perierare is better attested than peierare in Plautus, and ignores the fact that such denominatives from comparatives are of late development in the history of the Latin language. Moreover, it is difficult to believe that deiero, which is found in Plautus, although evidently a compound of iuro, owes its e solely to the analogy of peiero. A common explanation must be found, I think, for periero, deiero, eiero, and the form conierat (coierat) found only in Glossaries and explained as coniurat. The difficulty of course is in accounting for the short e in these compounds, and I do not think it is met by assuming, with Stolz, the existence of a primitive verb iŭro with short u alongside of iūro.

Before proceeding to state my view, I shall speak briefly of the forms found in Plautus. There are some sixteen cases of the verb *periuro* (*periero*) in Plautus, in three of which the reading is disputed. Only seven of these passages are found in the Ambrosianus, namely, Cist. 500, Merc. 539, Poen. 480, 1242, Pseud. 354, 1057, Stich. 192. In all except the last of these passages A has the spelling with u. In Stich. 192,

ni vere perierit, si cenassit domi,

Bugge would read perieraverit, but Leo takes perierit in the sense of interierit. In Poen. 1242, A has periures with the other Mss. where the metre requires perieres. In two other passages not found in A, Bacch. 1030 and 1042, the best Mss. have periurem and periuret where the metre requires the form with ĕ. Perierat is well attested for As. 293. There are nine passages where, so far as the metre is concerned, forms with e might be substituted for the better attested forms with Moreover, in Stich. 229, A alone has perieratiunculas, the other Mss. having periuratiunculas. It is quite possible, therefore, that periero was the more common form in Plautus. and that periuro has been substituted for it not simply in the three passages where the metre requires periero. The forms found are periuras Poen. 480, perieras Ussing, Leo, perierat As. 293. Peierat Men. 814 without Ms. authority Schoell. The Mss. read delurat or delirat, and Leo reads deierat.

Perierant Truc. 30 Schoell. Perierandum Leo and GS., periurabo As. 322, periuravisti Pseud. 354, periuravit Merc. 539. Perieraverit? or perierit Stich. 192. Perierem Bacch. 1030, periurem BCDFZ, pericres Poen. 1242, periures A with other Mss., perieret Bacch. 1042. Periuret Mss., periuraris As. 562 and 570, periuraverint Curc. 268, periurare Cist. 500 and Pseud. 1057.

For the existence of the form without *r*, *peiero*, the evidence is very slight for Plautus, although it is occasionally found in FZ and has been introduced by editors (cf. the critical apparatus to Asin. 293, Bacch. 1042, Poen. 480 and 1242, Pseud. 1057, Truc. 30). The adjective *peiurus* and the noun *peiurium* are somewhat better attested. See Studemund, *Rhein. Mus.* 21, 588.

The explanation, which I have to propose, starts from the form IOVESTOD of the Stele recently discovered in the Forum, which, with Hülsen, Skutsch, Thurneysen, and other scholars, I regard as the earlier form of *iustod*, *iusto*.

In *I.F.* XI., p. 342, v. Grienberger explains *iovesat* at the beginning of the Duenos inscription as equal to *iurat*, translating "es schwört bei den Göttern, der mich sendet." I do not think that this makes good sense, and v. Grienberger himself admits his inability to establish the connection with what follows.¹

Yet I think every one must admit that the earlier form of *iurat* would have been *iovesat*, which by syncopation gave *iousat* and then by rhotacism *iourat*. The diphthong *ou* is abundantly attested in inscriptions.

In the compound verb the phonetic development was somewhat different. In the early period the accent would of course rest upon the preposition. Now, just as dénovo gives dénuo, éndovo índuo (cf. Umb., anovihimu), túpover tú puer (cf. Archiv, XII., p. 281), so périovero would give périuero, or, in the stage before rhotacism, périoveso would have given périueso. One further change took place.

¹ I have attempted, *Harvard Studies*, XI. 164, reading *ioveset*, to explain this as the older form of *iouset*, *iussit*, an explanation which also rests indirectly on the assumption that *iovestod* equals *iustod*.

Minerva is now explained (cf. Brugmann, Gdr. I., pp. 232, 319, 324) as coming from *menes-oua through menesua, Minerua, Minerva, larva as from lasua, *lasoua. So I think in periuero, resulting from periovero, there was a tendency to pronounce the vowel u as v (English w), but the difficulty of pronouncing v after consonantal i caused the u to drop out. Thus we get instead of periuero, periero, and similarly in eiero and deiero. By this theory the short e is fully explained, and there is no necessity to dissociate peiero from iuro on the one hand or from eiero and deiero on the other.

The dropping of v(u) after a consonant is seen in aperio, operio for apverio, opverio, cf. Brugmann, I.F. I., p. 175, in battere for battuere, battalia for battualia, cf. Archiv, I., p. 249 and X., p. 421, and Schuchardt, Vocalismus, II., p. 470. The Appendix Probi, Archiv, XI., p. 329 has februarius non febrarius. See the note of Heraeus. Febrarius is abundantly attested in inscriptions and has its descendant in the Italian Febbraio. It is found also in a papyrus of the first century, first published in 1900. Schuchardt gives (II., p. 467 f.) many examples of u dropped in vulgar Latin. So Ianarius for Ianuarius, Conflentis for Confluentes, which gives us the modern Coblenz.

An interesting English parallel is seen in swear = iuro, whereas in the compound answer the w, although written, is not pronounced.

As to the form peiero, which seems not to be clearly established for Plautus, but which is frequent enough in later Latin (see Georges, Lexikon der Lat. Wortformen, s.v.), I should explain the dropping of the r as due to the same causes which have led to its disappearance in praestigiae, crebescere, and other words. A form like perierare or perieraris with three successive r's was difficult to pronounce, but neither the second nor the third r could be dropped without making the form unintelligible and consequently the first was dropped. Cf. Grammont, La Dissimulation consonantique, p. 28. The forms deierare and eierare may also have contributed to the disappearance of the r, which was further helped on by a popular etymology connecting the word with peius.

¹ Archives Militaires du 1er Siècle, Jules Nicole et Charles Morel, Genève, 1900.

As to the form *periurare* little need be said. It is simply due to recomposition, to bring out more clearly the connection with *iuro*, at a period when the form *periero* had already become a little mysterious. So in Curc. 268 *periuraverint* follows in *iure iurando* of the line before, and in Pseud. 354 *periuravisti* takes up *iuravistin* of 352.

In the compounds abiuro and adiuro, only the forms with u are attested for Plautus. See Lodge, Lexicon Plautinum, Fasc. I. So too in the case of coniuro although conierat is attested by glossaries. Editors read deieravit, Cas. 670 and deiera, Rud. 1336, although in the latter passage the Mss. have deiura. Eiero is not attested for Plautus, but occurs in later writers. Exiuro is found in a fragment of the Amph. For examples of periero, peiero, deiero, eiero in writers later than Plautus and in Inscriptions, see Georges, Lex. der Lat. Wortformen.

SOROR AND FRATER.

From Gellius, XIII. 10 we learn that the jurist Antistius Labeo derived soror from seorsum, and that Nigidius Figulus derived frater from fere alter, "frater est dictus quasi fere alter." Labeo and Nigidius were purists. They both believed in explaining Latin words from the Latin. Their etymologies are indefensible, but from another point of view they may have a certain interest and value. In deriving soror from seorsum Labeo evidently had in view the shorter form sorsum, which is found in Plautus and Lucretius.

The derivation of frater from fere alter implies a possible pronunciation of frater as ferater with the insertion of a parasitic e. Now it is quite possible that some persons should insert an e between f and r in pronunciation, when they would not do so in writing, just as Édon, Écriture et Prononciation du Latin savant et du Latin populaire, p. 213, tells us that a Persian will pronounce français ferançais. So we find in inscriptions Terebonio and Terebuni for the usual Trebonius, cf. C.I.L. I. 190, and Ephem. Epig. I., p. 29, n. 116. Other

 $^{^1}$ It is quite possible that these are later compounds formed when iuro was the only form in use of the simple verb.

similar examples of the same tendency given by Edon are Alexandiri, Petiro, patiri, matiribus, materi, Geracilis for Gracilis, pateres, magisteres, arbiterio, teribunatu, to which others might be added. The same possibility seems to be indicated by Varro's derivation of Gracchus from gero (cf. Charisius Keil, G.L. I., p. 87), although Wölfflin's recent derivation from gracus, the primitive of graculus, is more plausible. Servius and Donatus do not hesitate to derive ars from $\dot{a}\rho\epsilon\tau\dot{\eta}$, suggesting that the nom. pl. may have sounded like aretes. Paulus, p. 10, gives as one derivation of atrium "quod a terra oriatur quasi aterrium." Lindsay, Lat. Lang., p. 93, following Meyer-Lübke, says that the development in Romance of a word like patrem suggests an almost trisyllabic pronunciation like paterem, and the Venerable Bede tried to do away with spondaic hexameters ending in words like respergebat, argenti by assuming a pronunciation resperigebat, arigenti, which reminds us at once of the anaptyctic vowel in Oscan in words like aragetud. A tendency of this sort in Latin can hardly be denied.

For the dropping of l before t there is little that we can compare in Latin, but in Oscan in this very word l is dropped in the Tabula Bantina, which has atrud for altrud, although elsewhere in Oscan the l is preserved in the few instances where the word occurs. Similarly the Umbrian drops l in motar, which corresponds to Lat. multa, fine, cf. von Planta, I., p. 299. In French of course alter becomes autre, but in some of the Romance dialects the l seems to have been totally lost. Thus Sardinian has atter, atteru, Calabrian atru and atu, Genoese aotro and atro, cf. Mohl, Introduction à la Chronologie du Latin Vulgaire, p. 278. It seems to me, then, that in giving the derivation of frater from fere alter, Nigidius may well have had in mind a dialectic pronunciation of alter in which the l was not distinctly heard.

¹ We are not informed as to the birthplace of Nigidius Figulus, but it is perhaps interesting to note in this connection that the gentile name Nigidius is found according to Conway especially in Campanian and Sabine areas, *i.e.* exactly in those regions where *l* before *t* was not distinctly heard. Cf. Conway, *Italic Dialects*, II., p. 576.

The fact that Nigidius did derive frater from fere alter may lend support to the view that in the expression dies ater, ater stands for an original alter. Mohl, p. 277, says: "Que *åtru ou *atru pour *altrum alterum ait circulé dans l'Italie du Sud dès une époque très ancienne, c'est ce que montre le latin dies ater, Varron, Ling. Lat., VI. 4, 29: Dies postridie Kalendas Nonas Idus appellati atri, quod per eos dies novi inciperent. L'expression dies ater signifie donc 'un jour d'une nouvelle serie, d'une autre division.' Le mot nous reporte sans doute à l'époque où les Campaniens étaient encore les éducateurs de Rome, peut-être même au temps où Numa y introduisait le calendrier sabin." Before Mohl, Deecke had explained ater in the same way, but had attributed it to Etruscan influence, In Die Falisker (1888), p. 90, he says: "Es ist nämlich ater die etruskische Form für lat. alter, mit Wegfall des l vor t, wie im Beinamen hatu neben haltu, faltu lat. Falto." Mohl's view seems to me more probable. Wissowa in the article on dies ater in the new Pauly admits a similar meaning for ater. I quote his words: "Der Name dies ater hat mit ater, 'schwarz' nichts zu thun, sondern hängt, wie O. Gruppe (Herm. XV. 624) richtig gesehen hat, zusammen mit den Bildungen Triatrus, Quinquatrus, Septimatrus d.h. post diem tertium, quintum, septimum (Varro, de l. l. VI. 14. Fest. p. 254, die nur darin irren dass sie Quinquatrus etc. deuten post diem quintum etc. Idus, während natürlich der Ausgangspunkt der Zahlung jeder beliebige sein kann), bedeutet also nichts anderes als eben dies postriduanus." Gruppe in the article referred to by Wissowa makes no attempt to connect ater with alter. He says: "Ueber den Ursprung des Wortes vermag ich eine Vermuthung nicht aufzustellen: was den Sinn betrifft, so scheint mir am wahrscheinlichsten, dass es etwa 'nach,' 'nachher' bedeutete." Deecke, however, op. cit., p. q1, says: "triatrus, ursprünglich wohl nach der zweiten Deklination, fur *tri-alter(us), eigentlich der 'drei-andere' d.i. 'drittnächste' Tag u.s.w." We have the distinct testimony of Festus to the fact that Triatrus, Sexatrus, and Septematrus were in use among the Tusculans and Decimatrus among the Faliscans. These words, therefore, were dialectic

and there is nothing to prevent our supposing that Quinquatrus was originally a dialectic form. I submit, therefore, that in view of Nigidius' etymology of frater and of the facts above stated in regard to alter, this etymology of Deecke's deserves more serious attention than it has received from scholars. Stolz, Historische Grammatik, p. 549, without any attempt to explain the intrusion of the r, connects the suffix -atrus with the suffix -atus. His words are "Weiter reiht sich hier auch an trīm-ātu-s (Analogiebildung nach prīm-ātu-s Varro u.a.) 'Alter von drei Jahren' Col. Plin., das zugleich auch den Schlüssel enthält für Quinqu-ātrū-s (*quinqu-ātu-s 'Feier am fünften Tage') und die von Festus 340 Th. d. P. aufgeführten entsprechenden Bildungen Decim-ātrū-s (faliskisch) und Septem-ātrū-s, Sex-ātrū-s, Tri-ātrū-s (tusculanisch)." After this explanation, which does not explain, he coolly dismisses Deecke's view with the words "Eine andere sicher unhalthare Vermuthung über diese Substantive findet man bei Deecke Die Falisker S. oo f." Deecke is doubtless wrong in what he says about Etruscan influence, but not I think in connecting the words with alter, although there still remains some difficulty in regard to the declension of these forms. The most plausible supposition would be that *Quinquatrus* was influenced in its declension by Idus, Idus itself being an old adjective with a u-stem, cf. Brugmann, Gdr. II., p. 297. Compare also Sanskrit trîr aktūn and Delbrück, Vergleichende Syntax, I., p. 163.

In connection with Nigidius' etymology of frater, it may be interesting to note that Cicero, in Ad fam. II. 15, speaks of his brother Quintus as his alter ego. "quem tamen si reliquissem, dicerent iniqui non me plane post annum, ut senatus voluisset, de provincia decessisse, quoniam alterum me reliquissem." Voss, in his Etymologicon, goes so far as to say that in writing this, Cicero had in mind the etymology of Nigidius, but this is unnecessary. That alter and ater are often confused in Mss. I need not note. A famous example is Catullus, XCIII. 2,

nec scire utrum sis albus an ater homo,

where all the Mss. have alter for ater.

SALTEM.

Gellius, XII. 14, gives two etymologies for saltem, with both of which he declares himself unsatisfied, "censuimus igitur amplius quaerendum." The second derivation makes saltem stand for salutem, with the extrusion of u. seemed to Gellius clever but far-fetched. That it was current in antiquity is shown by the fact that Donatus and Servius both give it. Cf. Donatus, ad Adel. II. 2, 41 and Servius, ad Aen. IV. 327. This etymology need not be seriously considered. The other I give in the words of Gellius. "Atque erat, qui diceret, legisse se in grammaticis commentariis P. Nigidii, saltem ex eo dictum, quod esset 'si aliter' idque ipsum dici solitum per defectionem, nam plenam esse sententiam 'si aliter non potest.' Sed id nos in isdem commentariis P. Nigidii, cum eos non, opinor, incuriose legissemus, nusquam invenimus." He goes on to state a very valid objection. "Videntur autem verba ista 'si aliter non potest' a significatione quidem voculae huius, de qua quaerimus, non abhorrere. Set tot verba tamen in paucissimas litteras cludere, inprobae cuiusdam subtilitatis est." Wharton, in his Etyma Latina, derives saltem from saltus, leaping, 'swiftly, without difficulty.' Lindsay, Lat. Lang., p. 556, expresses himself more cautiously. "If saltem is Acc. Sg. of *salti-, a leap, lit. 'with a leap,' 'swiftly, easily, assuredly,' it has taken -tem by analogy of autem. item. etc."

The derivation from salutem shows that saltem was the recognized form, while saltim is late. In fact, with so many adverbs in -tim as partim, statim, etc., it is hard to comprehend why an original saltim should have been changed to saltem. Therefor it seems to me that this connection with salio must be given up. The derivation from si aliter, as thus stated, cannot be correct, but why may not saltem stand for an earlier si altem, altem being a syncopated form for alitem, an adverb from the stem ali-formed after the analogy of item? The early Latin, as we know from Paulus, had an adverb, aliuta, which does not appear in literature. Why may it not have had alitem in the sense of 'other-

wise, later supplanted by aliter? For the elision of si and the subsequent contraction, we may compare sis, sultis, and sodes. After the contraction took place, the derivation might easily have been forgotten, as it was in the case of sirempse, a word whose derivation is still in doubt. Whether altem or alitem was the original form of the adverb, I leave undecided. The analogy of aliter would favor alitem, and, according to F. Sommer, I.F. XI. 4, the pronoun alter goes back to an original *aliteros. Altem would then be the syncopated Allegro form of alitem. Syncope was doubtless very common in the early period of the language, and it is a question whether we can safely lay down such definite laws governing its action as has been attempted by von Planta and Sommer. To trace the development of meaning by which saltem arrived at the force of 'at least' is not easy, as it already has that force in the earliest literature, and the ordinary speaker in the time of Plautus had entirely lost sight of its origin, but we may note that as we often find sin aliter opposed to si, so we often find saltem following a clause with si. Terence, Hec. 635 ff., has:

> Ego, Pamphile, esse inter nos, si fieri potest, Adfinitatem hanc sane perpetuam volo; Sin est ut aliter tua siet sententia, Accipias puerum.

The latter proposition might have been abbreviated into sin aliter, accipias puerum, and we can see how sin aliter as an alternative might come to have the meaning of 'at least.' In Trin. 485,

Semper tu hoc facito, Lesbonice, cogites, Id optumum esse tute uti sis optumus:
Si id nequeas, saltem ut optumis sis proxumus.

At an earlier period of the language we can conceive of saltem, 'if otherwise,' taking the place of the clause si id nequeas, but in the time of Plautus it had lost this force and had come to mean 'at least.' Compare, Ter. Eun. 639, si illud non licet, saltem hoc licebit, also Amph. 438, Quis ego sum saltem, si non sum Sosia? Cas. 298, Nam si sic nil impetrare potero, saltem sortiar.

So in a sentence like Cic. ad Att. IX. 6, 5, eripe mihi hunc dolorem aut minue saltem, we can conceive that at an earlier period saltem had the force of 'if otherwise,' i.e. 'if you can't do that.' By the association of ideas after a time this might easily assume the meaning of 'at least.' Some dim appreciation of this earlier force seems to have been present to the author of the etymology when he interpreted saltem as 'si aliter non potest.'

Note on frequenter.

Fairclough, in his commentary on Ter. And. 107, una aderat frequens, says: "frequens used instead of the adverb frequenter, which belongs to later Latin." This is a natural mistake, as the dictionaries give no instance earlier than the Auctor ad Herennium, who uses it four times, IV. 32, 46, 48, and 56. But Cato, a contemporary of Terence, uses frequenter (de Agr. 67, I, oleum frequenter capiant). Cato also uses rarenter once, de Agr. 103, and we know from Nonius that it was used by Livius Andronicus, Ennius, Caecilius, Pomponius, and Novius. Later it crops up again in Gellius, Apuleius, and Macrobius. Now I think rarenter must have been formed on the analogy of *frequenter*. It was not necessary, as the early language had raro and rare, but as raro and crebro were paired, so rarenter and frequenter. Of course frequenter would not be cited by the grammarians, not being for them an unusual word. Indeed it is one of the words which later supplants Compare my article on Latin Glossaries in Vol. XV. of the Transactions, p. 130. Plautus, of course, does not use frequenter. His usual word is saepe, and crebro occurs infrequently. So Plautus does not use rarenter, but does use raro and rare. Frequenter must have been known in the time of Lucilius, but does not occur in his fragments, but neither does crebro or raro, both of which are earlier than Lucilius. saepe is only found five times in Lucilius and saepius twice. I believe that, if we had a larger body of early Latin prose, we should find that frequenter was in common use, and that rarenter, as I have already said, was formed on the analogy of frequenter.